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Department of Pharmacy

Prof Ilse Truter Wins NMMU Distinguished Teacher Award

The Faculty of Health Sciences would like to congratulate Prof Ilse Truter (Department of Pharmacy) on being one of the two recipients of the NMMU Teaching and Learning Excellence Award.

This award aims to recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning, made outstanding contributions to advancing NMMU's teaching and learning goals, and provided outstanding leadership in teaching practice and teaching innovation.

Prof Truter is currently in the process of conducting South Africa's first consumer study on the use of painkillers available without a prescription. The study aims to identify the typical adult pattern of painkiller use, the reasons why people use specific brand name painkillers, the types of conditions for which they use these products, whether cost or affordability plays a role in their choice, the "intensity" of the pain they are treating with non-prescription painkillers, and also whether they use any other non-medicinal methods to treat pain (for example, massage, heat packs or acupuncture). It also looks at the role of healthcare practitioners in pain management, and whether "over-use" can be identified. The study also investigates where people buy or obtain these products, including places such as pharmacies, clinics, spaza shops or supermarkets.

Her research seeks answers to the questions: Is it using something used everyday? And what is the "normal" use of painkillers in South Africa?



Above: Prof Ilse Truter

Department of Psychology

Emerging Engagement Excellence Award 2014

The Faculty of Health Sciences would like to congratulate Mr Kempie van Rooyen on winning the Emerging Engagement Excellence Award for 2014.

This awards aims to recognise individuals for emerging excellence in engagement, and demonstrating the potential to provide leadership and develop best practises in the field of engagement during the early stages of their career.

Mr van Rooyen focused on engaging with external stakeholders, primarily in the area of assisting rape survivors, this was due to his interest and developing expertise in the area of traumatic stress.

Mr van Rooyen partnered with Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) and the Rape Crisis Centre (RCC), that he had also assisted in the past by providing training and consultative support for the staff of TCC and RCC.

During the course of 2013, Mr van Rooyen focused on a number of different workshops, these included: Parenting to assist victims of childhood sexual abuse; individual counselling sessions; protective behaviour workshops and talks; peer training; and victim support groups.

These activities resulted in counselling over 170 sessions, with an additional 1523 people being assisted with 14 group based activities. These included victims of sexual abuse, their direct caregivers, as well as other professionals and professional caregivers.

Nine students were involved in the various activities and gained valuable expertise in line with their professional categories and training requirements.



"I could not have done any of this without the direct assistance of my colleagues, and the encouragement and freedom to pursue these kinds of activities that have been afforded me by my HOD" - Mr Kempie van Rooyen

Faculty of Health Sciences Prestigious Student Research Conference

The Faculty of Health Sciences held a very successful conference on 26 September 2014 and was privileged to have two renowned guests as keynote speakers.

Professor Quinton Johnson, Principal of the George Campus of NMMU, is known as an authority on natural medicine and spoke on “Natural Medicine: From bench to bedside”. Professor Gerry Bodeker is a world renowned expert on traditional and complementary medicine associated with many cultures including African, Islamic and Asian natural medicine. Professor Bodeker addressed the audience on “Natural medicines: For better public health”.

Both talks were very well received and fed easily into the presentations by the students of the faculty. Altogether the students delivered 16 podium and 4 poster presentations that demonstrated the range of programmes and research associated with the faculty.

Samantha Kahts won the prize for the best podium presentation for her topic “Fundamental movement skill proficiency status of girls aged 9 to 12 years from previously disadvantaged communities in Nelson Mandela Bay”.

Razia Gaida won the prize for the best poster presentation for her topic “Antidepressants and Parkinson’s Disease”.

Well done to our winners and to all the students (and their supervisors) who participated in the conference. Their professionalism and ability was evident, making them a credit to their mentors and to the faculty.



Above: Ms Razia Gaida (best poster presentation)



Above: Ms Samantha Kahts (best podium presentation)

Department of Dietetics

Dietetics Food Science: 101 Practical Examination

The 1st year Dietetics students recently had to cook up a storm for their practical examinations. They were expected to prepare a two-course meal that consisted of a main dish and a dessert.

This module provides the students with an introduction to food science and the role of the food industry in the context of a hospital, old-age home, or any other health services institution.

Emphasis is always placed on healthy eating, for example, to reduce the quantity of salt within a specific dish. The practical examinations were successful and the students are excited to continue with the Food Science 102 module that will continue to focus on the role of the food industry in health services.



Department of Social Development Professions

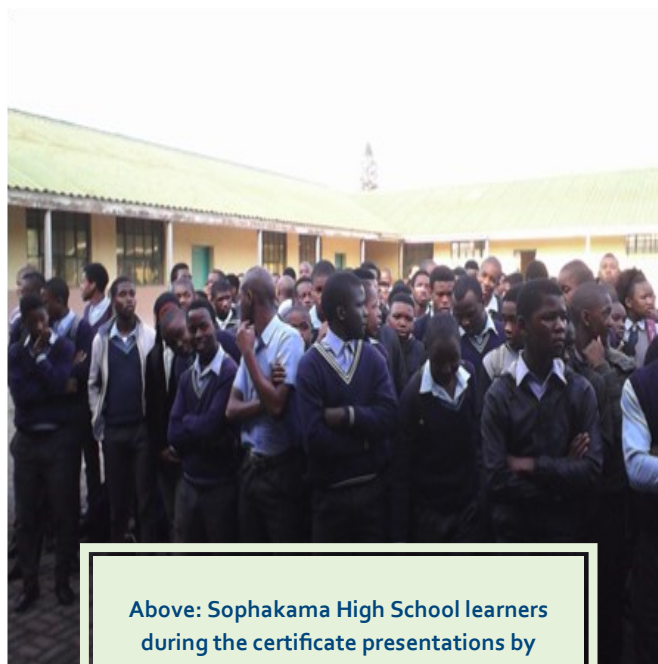
Sophakama High School Certificate Ceremony

2nd year NMMU Social Work students presented a six week group work programme (April 2014 – June 2014) with 56 learners from the Sophakama High School. Accompanying them were nine other schools from different communities, including the Northern areas.

The theme of this programme was based on “*future skills*”, to equip Grade 11 learners with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to prepare for their future, starting from 2015. The Social Work students received positive feedback from the learners, some statements included: “I got to know that the choices we make today would affect my future” and “I did not want the group to be terminated because I felt that I had bonded with my group members”.

The Social Work students stated that through examining the feedback from the learners, the programme had benefited them, as the skills they learnt would assist them in becoming stronger individuals. Learners acquired knowledge that would prepare them for their future and how to avoid being engaged in negative activities within their communities.

The Social Work students encourage the school to continue with these programmes, as learners need these skills to improve their lives. At the end of the programme, learners received certificates of attendance.



Above: Sophakama High School learners during the certificate presentations by 2nd year Social Work group work facilitators



Above: Sophakama High School learners accompanied by Mrs Zukiswa Gwam (third from left) and Ms Vuyokazi Bikitsha

Faculty of Health Sciences Supporting Slipper Day

Members of our Faculty had the “comfiest” time supporting Reach for a Dream with their annual Slipper Day on the 1st August 2014. The Reach for a Dream Foundation was established in 1991 with the core purpose of fulfilling the dreams of children aged between 13-18, who are facing life threatening illnesses. In 2013, the Foundation managed to raise an amazing R2.3 million on Slipper Day.



Faculty of Health Sciences



Department of Pharmacy



Department of Nursing

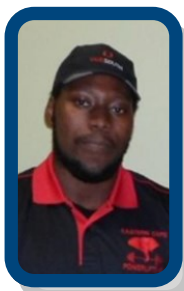


Department of Pharmacy



Faculty of Health Sciences

Student Achievements



Edgar Katushabe recently won a silver medal at the SA Equipped Powerlifting Championships held in Potchefstroom, where he represented the Eastern Province. He dominated his category with a squat of 185kg, bench press of 140kg and a deadlift of 250kg, overall finishing with a mere 5kg less than the gold medal winner.

Congratulations to HMS student, David White, on being selected for the SA A cricket side. The team toured Australia in August this year.



Congratulations to both Zanele Mdobana (Right: Sport Management Alumnus) and Zanele Vimbela (Left: HMS Alumnus), who have been selected as part of the South African team competing at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Earning yet another spot under student achievements is Zanele Mdobana (Sport Management Alumnus), who has been selected as one of Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans – inspiring young people who are making a difference. Zanele made her Proteas debut in 2005 and went on to represent SA in the under 20 and under 21 national teams. In 2012 she captained the Proteas to a 47-43 win over Malawi, which inaugurated South Africa as the top netball team on the African continent.



Congratulations to 4th year BPsych student and the President of the NMMU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society, Curwyn Mapaling, who has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Golden Key Community Service Award, including prize money of US \$1,000. Curwyn has also been awarded a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship for 2015.

Department of Social Development Professions

Pledge and Prize Giving Ceremony

On 21 July 2014 the annual ceremony took place in the Auditorium on the South Campus.

The prize winners for this year were:

FIRST YEAR

Award for Best Achievement in Theory: **Zenande Mbini**

Award for Best Achievement in Skills: **Nikita Burdett**

RINETTE DICKINSON AWARD:

Most Outstanding Social Work Learner: **Glenis Jacobs**

SECOND YEAR

Award for Best Achievement in Theory: **Lulamile Ndleve**

WILLEM VAN DER VYVER FLOATING TROPHY

Best Achievement in Practical Work: **Elroy Stuurman**

PROFESSOR MASHOLOGU-KUSE MEMORIAL TROPHY AWARD:

Outstanding Social Work Learner: 2nd Year:
Nomonde Ndarane

THIRD YEAR

QUINTRA FLOATING SHIELD:

Best Achievement in Theory: **Elizabeth Du Toit**

UVIWE CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES AWARD:

Best Achievement in Practical Work: **Dorothea Fourie**

ANNE SHER AWARD:

Most Outstanding Social Work Learner: 3rd Year:
Elizabeth D Toit

FOURTH YEAR

PROFESSIONAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY INSURANCE COMPANY (PPS) AWARD:

Best Achievement in Theory: **Nontsikelelo Mgxabayi**

FAMSA AWARD:

Best Achievement in Practical Work: **Dakalo Ratsethana**

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN AWARD

Most Outstanding Fourth Year Learner: **Nontsikelelo
Mgxabayi**

JOSEPH N SHER TRUST AWARD:

Best Achiever over 4 years of study: **Nontsikelelo
Mgxabayi**

NMMU CORPORATE MARKETING AWARDS

Most Outstanding Social Work Ambassador (1st Level):
Mathapelo Zongola

Most Outstanding Social Work Ambassador (2nd Level):
Mandisa Mbaza

Most Outstanding Social Work Ambassador (3rd Level):
Sinethemba Singatha

Most Outstanding Social Work Ambassador (4th Level):
Leaba Moloi

Below: Final year students formally pledged their alliance to the profession as they entered their final internship before qualifying as Social Workers



Department of Dietetics

Dietetics Students Join Forces With the Eastern Cape Rugby Academy

2nd year Dietetics students were each assigned to three rugby players from the Eastern Cape Rugby Academy during the past semester.

The students had to do a dietary assessment and body composition analysis on each of the players. The students identified areas in their diets where there was room for improvement and provided individualized advice accordingly, in order to promote health and enhance the players' sport performance.

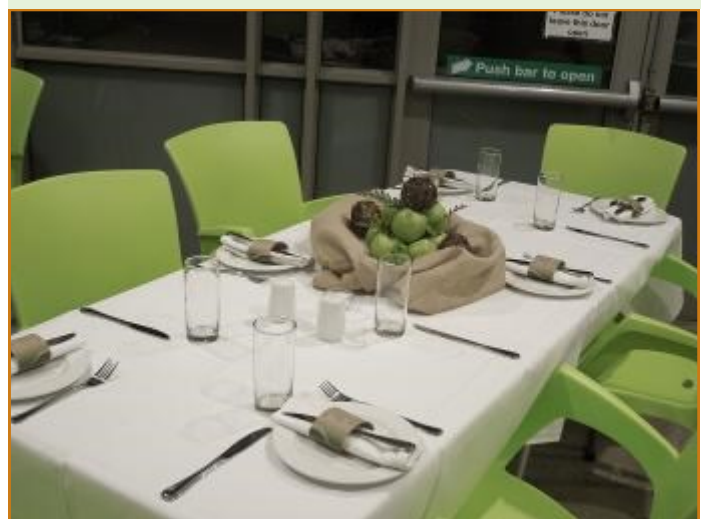
The students ended the project off with two separate functions where they had to adjust a certain dish that the rugby players are currently eating to a healthier version. One of the dishes prepared by one of the groups was a beef and lentil lasagne. Traditionally a lasagne is a dish with a high fat content as one uses beef mince that contains a lot of fat and a white sauce that is made with butter, flour and full cream milk.

The students decreased the mince content (and used extra lean mince) and added lentils (which is a good source of protein and is low in fat). The full cream milk was also replaced with fat-free milk to decrease the fat content. The white sauce was made without any butter.



Above: A 2nd year Dietetics student preparing the Beef and Lentil Lasagne

Below: The table is set for players from the EC Rugby Academy to enjoy their meal



Department of Dietetics

Beef and Lentil Lasagne



Serves 6

Ingredients:

Lentils, Brown (tinned) or Lentils, cooked	220g 375ml	Mixed dried herbs	5ml
Mince, Beef extra lean	500g	Fresh Basil	20g
Chopped tomatoes, canned	400g	Brown mushrooms	100g
Tomato puree	60g	Onions, finely chopped	1 medium
Milk, Fat-free	375ml	Garlic cloves, finely chopped	2 medium
Cornflour	15ml	Cheese, Mozzarella	200ml
Mustard, prepared	15ml	Salt	Limit amount
Lasagne sheets	200g	Pepper	According to taste
Canola/Olive oil	5ml	Cayenne pepper	2ml
		Bread crumbs	90ml
		Spray and cook: As required	

Method:

- Finely chop the onion and garlic, add to a pan with 5 ml oil. Fry until it has soften and golden in colour. Chop basil together with the mixed herbs and add.
- Add the mince and lightly brown in the pan.
- Slice the mushrooms and add to pan and then, add the lentils.
- Stir in and bring to the boil, then reduce heat. Stir frequently until the mixture thickens.
- Mix the cornflour with a little bit of water to make a smooth runny paste. In a separate sauce pan heat the milk, and add cornflour into the hot milk.
- Add salt and pepper, mustard and cayenne pepper and cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thickened.
- Spray a 24cm x 20cm (2L/8-cup capacity) ovenproof dish with Spray and Cook and place a third of the mince mixture at the bottom, pour over a third of the white sauce, and layer with lasagna sheets, repeat this and end off with a layer of white sauce. For the best results, dip each lasagne sheet in hot water before layering it.
- Grate the cheese and sprinkle along with bread crumbs over the top of the lasagne.
- Bake for 20 minutes at 180 degrees.

*For a balanced meal serve with fresh vegetables like broccoli and carrots or a fresh mixed salad.

Department of Social Development Professions

A Winter Project With a Difference

The Department of Social Development Professions (SDP) participated in a Community based Winter School Project that took place from the 29th June 2014 – 04th July 2014. The project, which was the initiative of a local church (the Uniting Reformed Church in Chatty), was presented to 75 grade 10 and 11 learners from 10 different schools in the Northern areas of Port Elizabeth, with the overall goal of promoting a culture of learning, achievement and learner receptiveness to pro-social engagements .

The presentations took place at Bethvale Primary School in Chatty, and were an excellent example of a true community engagement project, which illustrated how closer collaboration between the university and the community could be achieved. The project was underpinned by an interdisciplinary cooperation between four Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) departments: the Department of Social Development Professions; the Faculty of Education; Marketing and Corporate Relations; and the Library and Information Systems.

On 29th June 2014, Veonna Goliath (Social Development Professions) and Elizabeth Ann Du Toit (4th year social work student), presented workshops in two parallel sessions, to the learners and their parents. Parents were equipped with knowledge on how to promote a culture of learning and visioning in a culturally sensitive manner, whilst learners used the forum to articulate what they need from their parents, in order to promote positive academic outcomes.

From the 30th June – 03rd July 2014, academic tutoring was offered in Maths, Maths literacy, Accounting, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Business Management Sciences and Afrikaans. The tutors who offered their skill and valuable recess time, were recruited with the assistance of Dr Andre Du Plessis from the Faculty of Education, and included:

- Karen Hendricks: Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) student

(Continued on page 12)



Grade 11 learner, Emile (center), thanking Andrew Kock (right) and 2nd year Social Work student Liziwe Mavongwana (left) for their presentations to the learners

Department of Social Development Professions

A Winter Project With a Difference

- Sonwabile Nqeketho: PGCE student
- Shannon Zamouzaridis: Bed (FET) prac teacher
- Kaleigh Monaghan: Bed (FET) prac teacher
- Lauren Seaman: Bed (FET) prac teacher
- Stanton Potgieter: 2nd year Bed (FET) student
- Amina Peterson: Bed (FET) teacher
- Dr Johann McFarlane: Veteran educator

The academic tutoring sessions were balanced with life skills sessions facilitated by Veonna and Elizabeth, focusing on learners' development of a vision for their futures, and actively drawing up study skills programmes.

On the 4th July 2014, learners were transported to the NMMU South Campus, where Liziwe Mavongwana (2nd year social work student) shared her journey of perseverance and academic success. This was followed by Andrew Kock (Marketing and Corporate Relations) who presented the different programmes that NMMU has to offer, and concluded with a campus and library tour, facilitated by Library staff members: Madeleine Clare, Marina Ward and Vuyani Mhlontlo.

The Winter School was concluded with a certificate ceremony at the church on the 06th July 2014, attended by the parents of the learners. The project has culminated in the development of a study centre at the initiating church, which offers a safe and quiet environment for learners to do their homework and receive on-going access to academic tutoring and life skills input from the participating Education and SDP staff and students. Community Mentors are also being identified and linked to the participating learners.



Above: The interdisciplinary team comprising Veonna Goliath, Dr Johann McFarlane, qualified teachers from the Chatty community, Reverend Hanzline Davids and students from both the Department of Social Developments Professions and the Faculty of Education



Above: Librarian, Marina Ward, orientating the learners to the South Campus Library



Above: 4th year Social Work student, Elizabeth Ann Du Toit, delivering a life skills input to the learners

Department of Psychology



NMMU Psychology Society



Above: Learners attending the APA Referencing Workshop



Above (From left to right): Ms Sarah Everett (Chairperson of the Psychology Society), Ian Ferreira (Deception Detection Guest Speaker) and Thobani Mandarin (Head of Academics)

The NMMU Psychology Society have been very proactive during the 1st Semester, hosting a range of educational events.

The Society started off the year by hosting an APA Referencing Workshop on the 27th February 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to inform, and teach society members how to correctly reference in their upcoming assignments, according to APA standards. The workshop was open to all individuals who wished to attend, but was mainly focused on 1st year students.

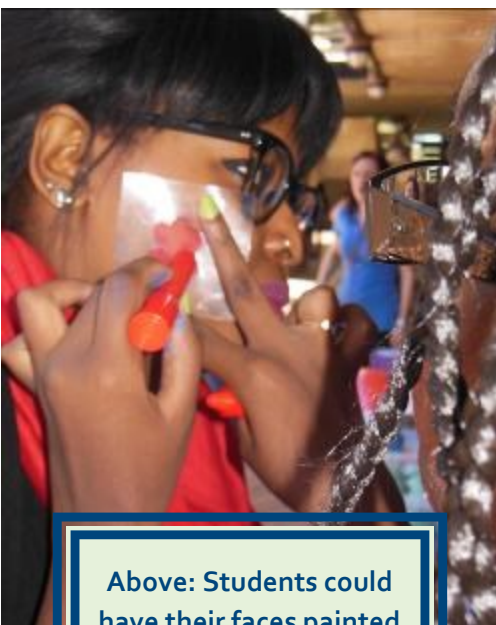
Miss Alida Sandison (Department of Psychology) attended the workshop as a guest lecturer, as well as Mr Thobani Mkananda (Head of Academics) who was the co-facilitator.

The Society honoured Autism Day (2 April 2014) by hosting their very own "Autism Day" on the 16th April 2014. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the

Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Society sold cupcakes, "autism ribbons", and face painting puzzle pieces. Parts of the proceeds were donated to the St. Barts Autism Academy (Port Elizabeth) at the end of April 2014. The proceeds were donated in the form of a Melissa and Dough toy voucher.

On the 8th May 2014, the Society also hosted a Deception Detection Workshop. The workshop was presented by Ian Ferreira, a former detective specialising within the SA Narcotic Bureau and Detective Services.

The purpose of this workshop was to provide members with emotional awareness training and tools to improve emotional understanding, and the ability to evaluate truthfulness. Participants of the workshop can apply these skills in various communication situations, ranging from interviewing, recruitment, negotiations and the sales environment.



Above: Students could have their faces painted at Autism Day



Above: Members of the Psychology Society hosting their very own Autism Day

Faculty of Health Sciences

Student Engagement Activities



Learners from Ethembeni High School



Learners from Bertram High School



Ms Kirsty Kriek (Faculty of Health Sciences Marketing Representative) and Mrs Janet Barry (Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy) with learners from St Thomas High School

As our Faculty expands, it has been a priority for us to educate students on the current need for health care workers in South Africa, and what each profession entails.

On 31st July 2014, a group of matric students from St Thomas High School visited our Faculty to learn about the different courses we have to offer. The students were then treated to a tour of our recently upgraded Pharmacy department, where they viewed our Training dispensary; Pharmaceutical dispensary; Chemistry lab and Clinical skills lab.

On the 6th August 2014, our Faculty was invited to present at the National Science Week - Careers in STEMI (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Innovation), which took place from the 4th - 8th August 2014. Our session was attended by a large number of students from Ethembeni, Cillie, Douglas Mbopa, Sanctor, Khwezi Lomso, Bertram and Gelvendale High School.

Students from Nursing Science, Pharmacy and Psychology, represented our Faculty at the Annual Cluster Weekend that took place from the 8th - 10th August 2014. The cluster was hosted by The Methodist Student Society (NMMU branch), and consisted of students from NMMU, Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare.

The students decided to arrange a Career Expo and Employability Workshop for teenagers who are about to enter University, as education is one of the five pillars of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa.



1st year BCur Nursing student, Ms Y Jombile, at the Annual Cluster Weekend

Department of Social Development Professions

Food for Thought



Above (From left to right): Ms Merlene Esau (Social Work lecturer at UFS), Dr Anneline Keet (HOD of the Social Work department at UFS) and Veonna Goliath (Social Work lecturer at NMMU)

The University of the Free State hosted a one day seminar on the 31st July 2014, focused on aligning professional training and practise realities of social work, with the indigenous context of South Africa.

Ms Veonna Goliath (Social Development Professions) who attended the workshop, stated that several key questions, that could assist the Faculty of Health Sciences as we embark on our re-visioning journey, were raised. These included:

What can we do as a Faculty of Health Sciences, to interrupt the country's and provinces' steady decline on the Human Development Index?

Is our curriculum appropriate for the psycho-socio-environmental and economic context in which our students will be practising?

How do we equip our students to practise their respective health sciences professions in a country where economic apartheid prevails?

The conclusions derived from this seminar were that if we want to be culturally and contextually relevant, we have to substitute our individualist-reformist and reflexive-therapeutic theoretical underpinnings in our curricula in favour of the Transformative (socialist-collectivist) schools of thought.

Department of Emergency Medical Care

VASBYT



Emergency Medical Care students took practical learning to a whole new level on the 9th September 2014, with their VASBYT experience.

The students were presented with a search and rescue mission of two seemingly persons. The students were collected at 05h00 and taken to the Gamtoos River where they started their mission, with 20 students paddling down the river. After covering 23km, the students arrived at the Gamtoos River Mouth and disembarked their boats.

The paddle was followed by a 17km hike on the beach from Gamtoos River mouth to Van Stadens river mouth. Hiking into the night presented further challenges as it started pouring down with rain, the students then had to cross the 75m wide Van Stadens river before settling into their camp sites.

At 22h00 the students collated amongst their teams to prepare their strategy for the following day, which included some serious mind games and mental challenges. Day two started at 06h22 with the students already in their swimming gear, and all equipment ready to go. The students had to move up the Van Stadens river, where the first 2km could only be accessed by means of boats, keeping in mind that each team now only had one boat, which meant somebody in the team had to swim alongside the boat. When the river became too shallow, the boats had to be carried for the remainder of the 10 km trip up to Woodridge College.

At 13h00, and after another mind game, the students departed from Woodridge College along the R102 and after 8km, arrived at the foot of Lady's Slipper. The students received information that the two seemingly lost persons were found by hikers halfway up the hill and apparently sustained some injuries, this meant that the two patients could only be retrieved by means of a stretcher carry-out. What started out as a 30min hike going up, ended in a gruelling three hour energy-destroying carry-out. Finally reaching the bottom at 19h30, the mission was completed with a warm meal and celebration at Falcon Rock Country Restaurant.

Great congratulations to each and every student for successfully completing this 61km mission – showing courage, determination and great team work amidst their own discomfort and pain – the exact ingredients for an excellent paramedic!



COMMITTED TO BUILDING **STRONGER,** **HEALTHIER** COMMUNITIES



Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) is committed to building healthier communities, thanks to a ground-breaking plan for health education in South Africa.

For the past 18 months, the university has been strengthening its health professional programmes in a bottom-up approach with the aim of establishing a comprehensive faculty of health sciences in the metro which is inclusive of a medical school. It's an initiative aimed at:

- ▶ Making health education more relevant to the needs of the people
- ▶ Making a career in health care more accessible to more people
- ▶ Creating more flexibility to address student needs and circumstances
- ▶ Strengthening public facilities and promoting local economic development and
- ▶ Supporting South Africa's fifth largest metro through the strengths of a comprehensive Faculty of Health Sciences.

MAKING A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE

Introducing PRIME: a pre-registration initiative to give prospective health students a head-start

A novel initiative will be launched in 2015 among grade 8 learners to grow the Faculty of Health Sciences' future students. PRIME (Pre-Registration Initiative for Matric Entry) has three key objectives in helping the youth achieve their dreams of working in the health or social work professions. These are:

- ▶ Helping learners from as early as grade 8 to understand what is needed to prepare them for the various options for healthcare professions. This initiative will also help inform parents, careers, teachers and community leaders about what is needed to support learners on this journey.
- ▶ Supporting learners who express interest in a career in health to access local resources that can help them in key subjects at school.

- ▶ Providing development programmes prior to registration to sharpen their readiness for the first year of study at university.

The PRIME initiative will work with the Provincial Government's Social Compact to help these learners access bursaries and scholarships.

Prioritising youth from rural and lower income families

The Faculty of Health Sciences has set a goal that by 2016 at least half of its new students will come from rural and lower income homes.

Such a selection process will be tested within several degree programmes from next year.

Again, the Faculty will work with government partners and other funders to support the costs of entry for these students and their families.

Creating more flexibility to address student needs and circumstances

The Faculty currently offers qualifications in 10 health professions as well as social work. The health professions include nursing, emergency medical care, radiography, biokinetics, human movement sciences, dietetics, pharmacy, medical laboratory services, psychology and environmental health. A clinical associate programme is planned to start in 2016 and possibly general medicine in 2018.

As part of its bottom-up approach, the Faculty is working on various innovations for students to share learning in a foundation year of study as well as possibly exiting with a qualification other than their planned degree. Emphasis is also being placed on the ability to enter certain programmes to further ones studies in later life. Supporting this approach is the Faculty offering more mid-level worker qualifications that pair up with the professional degree and in the case of medicine designing a qualification that allows for graduate entry in the third year of the degree.

MAKING HEALTH EDUCATION MORE RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

The Faculty is committed to supporting actions and teaching key national health policies and imperatives. These include:

- ▶ The National Health Insurance
- ▶ Re-Engineering of Primary Health Care, and
- ▶ The National Human Resources for Health Strategy

To ensure its graduates follow a more humanising and people-centred approach, the Faculty is working towards ensuring its students practically understand the primary health care approach. They will also be taught and work within teams made up of different health professions to understand how to truly meet the needs of our diverse communities.

The Faculty will expand its facilities for learning, especially to include more rural facilities. This will be done in partnership with other education providers where possible so that we can grow our collective strength within the province.

Furthermore, the Faculty will increase its efforts in serving local communities by expanding its Missionvale Campus service platform. It will also work with local and provincial partners to deploy new mobile multi-functional community service centres to take primary services to the people. The first centre should be operational by mid-2015 and will offer basic services linked to all the Faculty's professions.

A MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILT ON MODERN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WITH LOCAL EXPERTISE

South Africa has one of the lowest rates for doctors to people in a country – less than 1 doctor for every 100 000 people. Taking note of government's call for more doctors to be trained both here in South Africa and Cuba, the Faculty is working on innovative proposals to start a new and unique medical degree by 2018 as well as to help support students who came from the Eastern Cape returning from Cuba for their 18 month integration programme.

To ensure the province has the most up to date medical degree, the Faculty is drawing on international and

national expertise on how best to improve medical education. This will not only ensure a high quality programme, but also make the degree more accessible and relevant to the needs of the country. Part of this work is also to ensure that these new doctors will be more in tune with the needs of communities, have a more holistic approach to caring for those in need while also being leaders for change in our health system.

While the Faculty is developing its new School of Medicine proposal, it is also actively looking at various proven models for collaborating or partnering with other faculties and education providers to maximize national resources for medical education.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROMOTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Research shows that a facility used for training tends to have a higher standard of service than those that do not. Reasons why this may be so include staff in these facilities being kept up to date in their practice as well as the attraction and improved retention of experienced staff.

As the Faculty grows, one of its core principles is to ensure that it can help strengthen public facilities and services. This is already being done through various engagements with local and provincial management teams to help pool resources and strengths to improve service delivery.

The Faculty further hopes to contribute to Local Economic Development through student, staff and visitor spending as well as Faculty activities within communities that support creating local job opportunities.

IN SUMMARY

The Faculty of Health Sciences at NMMU is taking a bold but purposeful vision forward to improve service delivery and help strengthen communities. To make this vision a reality will require the support and inputs of local communities, government and other partners.

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